

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5500

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECOSOC, WFC

SUBJECT: 59TH ECOSOC-WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

FOR BUFFUM FROM FERGUSON

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AMB MOYHIHAN, USUN

REF: SECTO 06038

1. WE ARE SENDING SEPTEL FULL ACCOUNT OF ACTIVITIES
US DEL ECOSOC RE JUNE MEETING WORLD FOOD COUNCIL
(WFC). MOST OF THESE ACTIVITIES TOOK PLACE WHILE
AMB MOYNIHAN WAS PRESENT IN GENEVA. THIS TEL
ADDRESSED SOLELY TO ISSUE RAISED REFTEL OF "WHY"
EVENTS IN ROME TOOK PLACE.

2. IN OUR OPINION, BASIC CAUSE OF ROME CONFRONTATION
LAY IN INADEQUATE OR NON-EXISTENT POLITICAL ADVICE
FROM USG TO DR. HANNAH IN ROME, BOTH BEFORE AND
DURING WFC. ISSUE CLEARLY WAS THAT OF JOBS IN
SECRETARIAT ABOUT WHICH G-77 WAS NOT "CONSULTED".
THE MATTER OF SECRETARIAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSLATION
AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES WAS PURELY FORTUITOUS
OCCASION TO PERMIT G-77 TO GET AT JOBS ISSUE. THIS
IS REFLECTED IN WORLD FOOD COUNCIL REPORT AVAILABLE
HERE IN GENEVA. RELEVANT PART OF ROME DECLARATION OF
GROUP OF 77 STATES THAT G-77 "DECLARES IT ESSENTIAL
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TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:..."

(PARA 2) "TO NOMINATE AN ADEQUATE SECRETARIAT, WITH BALANCED REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION, ANSWERABLE TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL".

3. CLEARLY DR. HANNAH HAD RIGHT TO EXPECT ADVICE ON WFC POLITICAL ISSUES, I.E., G-77, ITS POSITION, ITS INTENTIONS, WHO WERE THE TROUBLEMAKERS--AND WHY, ETC. THIS HE DID NOT GET FROM HIS OWN STAFF--PRINCIPALLY AZIZ--FOR REASONS SET OUT SEPTEL AND WELL KNOWN TO DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD APPEAR FROM OUR RECONSTRUCTION OF EVENTS HERE IN GENEVA BASES ON TALKS WITH PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS (SEPTEL), THAT USG DID NOT PROVIDE KIND OF POLITICAL ADVICE OR SUPPORT WHICH MIGHT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED, I.E., IN ALL SUCH CONFERENCES IT IS NECESSARY THAT AN OFFICER WITH LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO AND CREDITABILITY WITH G-77/NAG SHOULD BE PRESENT. EXPERIENCE IN OTHER CONFERENCES WHERE SAME HIGH POTENTIAL FOR CONFRONTATION EXISTED HAS SHOWN THE NECESSITY OF THAT KIND OF SERVICE BY THAT TYPE OF OFFICER, E.G., UNDEP CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI, NATURAL RESOURCES IN TOKYO, ECLA IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AND ESCAP IN NEW DELHI.

4. IN ADDITION, IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT G-77 REPS IN ROME MORE TECHNICAL AND SUBJECT MATTER ORIENTED THAN THOSE IN NEW YORK OR GENEVA. BEFORE WFC G-77 TOOK POSITION SECRETARIAT WAS IMBALANCED. G-77 OPERATIVES IN ROME LACKED POLITICAL SOPHISITICATION OF OPERATIVES IN NEW YORK AND GENEVA TO RAISE ISSUE IN MANNER OTHER THAN BY CONFRONTATION. SPECIFICALLY, THEY APPEAR NOT TO HAVE GOTTEN THE MESSAGE FROM G-77 IN NEW YORK THAT THIS NOT TIME FOR CONFRONTATION SO LONG AS USG IS FORTHCOMING. THIS POSITION OF NY 77 RE FOOD RE-COMFIRMED HERE IN GENEVA. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT NY G-77 INVITED USG TO PREPARE BASIC PAPER ON FOOD NEEDS FOR 7TH SS AGENDA DISCUSSION IN ECOSOC.

5. US DEL RECOMMENDATIONS RE REPORT OF WFC CONTAINED
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SEPTEL. ABRAMS

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